



NEWS

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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LOCAL MEN INDICTED IN TAX REFUND SCHEME

(Wilmington, DE) – Patrick T. Carter, Director of Revenue, announced today that the Grand Jury for the Superior Court in New Castle County has returned a seven-count indictment against two individuals charged with operating a fraudulent income tax refund scheme.

Jamaal Y. Barksdale, 26, of Wilmington was charged with five felony counts, including three counts of filing false tax returns and two counts of identity theft in which Barksdale allegedly used the personal information of other persons to file fraudulent income tax returns. Separately, Edward A. Barksdale, 28, was charged with one felony count of filing a false state tax return and one misdemeanor count of attempted theft.

From February to April 2007, the defendants unlawfully obtained the personal information of several unsuspecting individuals – including names and social security numbers – and electronically filed numerous false income tax returns for tax year 2006. Each of the false returns included fabricated wages and state withholding amounts. The false returns were then sent electronically to the Division of Revenue. The defendants directed that the refunds be directly deposited into personal bank accounts set up in their own names.

Overall the defendants attempted to obtain nearly \$3,000 in fraudulent tax refunds from the State of Delaware.

Each count of filing a false return carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine and court-ordered restitution. Each count of identity theft carries a maximum penalty of eight years in prison and a fine the court deems appropriate.

Both individuals await arraignment and trial date in Superior Court in Wilmington.

This case stems from an investigation conducted by the Delaware Division of Revenue's Criminal Investigation Unit and referred to the Delaware Attorney General's office for indictment and prosecution.

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